

Message Text

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73/47

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SAM-01 SS-20 RSC-01

SAJ-01 NIC-01 IO-14 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01 /104 W
----- 028606

P R 131030Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 594

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL UDORN

USSAG NKP RTAFB

13TH ADVON UDORN

CINCPAC PRIORITY

DIA WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 2457

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT PARA 4.)

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH, MARR

SUBJECT: CHARTCHAI ON U.S. WITHDRAWALS AND THAI RELATIONS WITH
COMMUNIST COUNTRIES

REF: A. FBIS BANGKOK D100403Z FEB 74 B. BANGKOK 1943

1. DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER CHARTCHAI CHUNHAWAN SAID THAT
THAILAND WOULD ASK THE UNITED STATES TO WITHDRAW ITS
AIRFORCE AND MILITARY PERSONNEL AS SOON AS THERE IS A
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POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IN CAMBODIA, ACCORDING TO AN INTERVIEW

CARRIED IN THE "BANGKOK POST" FEBRUARY 10 (SEE FBIS REFERENCE FOR COMPLETE TEXT). CHARTCHAI REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE LOCAL U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE WAS ONLY FOR MAINTAINING THE STABILITY AND SECURITY OF THAILAND AND THE REIONG. THAILAND WAS ALREADY SATISFIED WITH THE SETTLEMENT IN LAOS.

2. CHARTCHAI REVEALED THAT HE HAD ASKED THE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE ABOUT THE AMERICAN PRESENCE IN THAILAND. HE QUOTED DR. KISSINGER AS STATING "IT DEPENDS ON YOU.WHAT YOU WANT, WE ARE WILLING TO DO".

3. CHARTCHAI NOTED THAT THE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. FORCES WAS A CONDITION THAT HANOI PLACED BEFORE FRIENDLY CONTACTS COULD BE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN THE RTG AND THE DRV. HE LISTED THE FRINEDLY RTG CONTACTS WITH MOSCOW, ULAN BATOR, PEKING AND PYONGYANG. HANOI WAS THE ONLY COMMUNIST CAPITAL IN ASIA NOT HAVING RELATIONS WITH THAILAND (SIC). HE SAID THAT FREINDSHIP WITH HANOI IS AN IMPORTANT RTG FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVE. THAILAND SOUGHT A DETENTE WITH DHE DRV IN ORDER TO ELIMINATE THE SENSE OF MUTUAL THREAT.

4. CHARTCHAI ADDED THAT HE FAVORED CONTACTS WITH NORTH KOREA WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE EXISTING FREINDLY DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SEOUL. HE SAID A NORTH KOREAN REPRESENTATIVE IN PEKING HAD APPROACHED HIM SEEKING TRADE, CULTURAL, AND SPORTS EXCHANGES WITH THAILAND..

5. ON THE SAME DAY, "THE NATION" STATED THAT "FOREIGN MINISTER CHARUNPHAN ISSARANGKUL INSISTED HE WAS NOT AWARE OF THE NORTH KOREAN GESTURE AS REPORTED TO THE PRESS BY HIS DEPTY" AND QUOTED INFORMED SOURCES" AS SAYING THAT NEITHER THE PRIME MINISTER NOR FOREIGN MINISTER WAS AWARE OF ANY INITIAL CONTACTS. FURTHERMORE THE FOREIGN MINISTER WAS CITED AS STRESSING THAT THAILAND IS EXTREMELY CAREFUL IN HER APPROACH TO COMMUNIST COUNTRIES; THAI-CHINA CONTACTS HAVE NOT GONE BEYOND SPORTS IN TWO YEARS.

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6. COMMENT: CHARUNPHAN HAS AN UNEASY RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS GARRULOUS AND LESS CAUTIOUS DEPUTY. WHILE THE NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR TO CHINA DID APPROACH CHARTCHAI IN PEKING ABOUT IMPROVING RTG/DPRK RELATIONS (REFERENCE B), THE MINISTRY OF FORIENG AFFAIRS (MFA) IS NOT ANXIOUS TO GIVE PUBLIC CONFIRMATION OF THE FACT. ON CHARTCHAI'S COMMENTS ON THE U.S. PRESENCE, A KEY FOREIGN MINISTRY

OFFICIAL TOLD US FEBRUARY 13 THAT THE MFA SAW NOTHING NEW.
THE MFA POSITION WAS THAT EXTENSIVE WITHDRAWALS SHOULD
TAKE PLACE ONCE THERE IS PEACE IN THE REGION. HE SAID
THAT CAMBODIA WAS ONLY PART OF THE PICTURE, AND THAT
CHARTCHAI DID NOT MEAN TO EXCLUDE OTHER POSSIBILITIES.
HIS STATEMENT HAD BEEN AN OVEREMPHASIS ON ONE COUNTRY, AND
REPRESENTED A LOOK AT SOUTHEAST ASIAN SECURITY FROM ONLY
ONE ANGLE.
KINTNER

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